

Remarks for EPA Hearing on the Clean Power Plan (5 minutes)
Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18)
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Pick up any newspaper around the world and it reveals an undeniable fact of life: our climate is changing. We're experiencing the effects daily and at accelerating rates.

In the United States we're experiencing the hottest years on record, and the most severe floods, wildfires and droughts in modern history. My home state of California is currently facing an unprecedented drought which is threatening the most productive agricultural valley in the world—the San Joaquin Valley.

We also know that what we humans are doing is causing this global change. Total U.S. carbon emissions per year are 5.4 billion tons. And between 2011 and 2013, \$13 billion was appropriated by Congress for disaster relief—an annual \$400 tax equivalent per household. The correlation is undeniable.

Today I speak in support of a major initiative that can make a positive impact and create a lasting legacy to change the ominous direction we're headed.

Power plants account for 40 percent of U.S. carbon emissions. To effectively address climate change, we have to limit the amount of carbon emitted, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2030, the Clean Power Plan has the potential to yield untold technological innovation, improve public health, bolster our economic growth, and, most importantly, advance the reversal climate change.

The economic case is compelling. The EPA's analysis indicates that the Clean Power Plan will have climate and health benefits of \$55 to \$93 billion by 2030, with costs between \$7 and \$8 billion. But beyond the plan's benefits on paper, I believe its true benefit will be to send a signal to investors and the rest of the world that America's clean energy economy is here to stay.

Significant job creation is also within reach. Today, the solar energy industry employs over 140,000 Americans, with over half being installer jobs which cannot be outsourced. This industry experienced 20 percent job growth in 2013 – ten times the national average. With the Clean Power Plan in place, homegrown job numbers like these will continue to go up.

Some have argued that this plan is government overreach. In fact, the Supreme Court has upheld the authority of the EPA to regulate carbon emissions on three separate occasions since 2007. Before this plan was even released, some argued it would cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and result in skyrocketing electricity prices. The EPA found that the plan will cause modest increases in electricity prices in the short term, and over the long run will result in lower electricity bills for consumers. According to a Washington Post/ABC News poll, 70 percent of Americans support this plan. Even when consumers are informed that their electricity bills may go up, Americans still support action to address climate change by a 2-to-1 margin.

The economist Paul Krugman stated in a recent column that, "Environmentalism is not the enemy of economic growth." He was referring to Northeastern states that instituted cap-and-trade policies for carbon in 2009. He could have just as easily been referring to California, where

we've embraced similar policies and have the eighth largest economy in the world. These states have experienced dramatic *decreases* in emissions and *faster* economic growth. But ultimately, the Clean Power Plan is not only a job creation plan or an economic policy, it's climate policy, and it's a critical step to protecting our planet for our children and grandchildren.

America is the greatest nation in the world because it has been able to rise to the occasion in the face of adversity. We have the science, the knowhow and the will to overcome climate change. I believe we can do it. It's why I support the Clean Power Plan. And I believe there is no nobler cause for our future.